

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 16, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the unsealing of five indictments and a criminal complaint charging a total of thirty-six defendants with a federal racketeering conspiracy, violent crimes in aid of racketeering, and drug trafficking violations. The charges stem from a long-term investigation conducted by the multi-agency San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group and North County Regional Gang Task Force, which targeted the criminal activities of Hispanic street gangs with ties to the Mexican Mafia, or “La Eme.”

One of the five indictments (Case No. 06CR1243-DMS) charges twenty-two individuals with participating in a Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) conspiracy. As set forth in that Indictment, the defendants engaged in multiple racketeering acts in furtherance of the Mexican Mafia criminal enterprise, including, among other things, murder, conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, robbery, extortion in violation of the “Hobbs Act,” conspiracy to import controlled substances into the United States,

conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, conspiracy to launder drug proceeds, the importation of controlled substances into the United States, and the distribution of controlled substances. The RICO conspiracy indictment also sets forth the manner in which the Mexican Mafia criminal organization exerted control over illegal activities both within the prison system and on the streets of Southern California, as well as the Mexican Mafia's connection to the following Hispanic street gangs in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties:

Sherman Heights (San Diego)
Shelltown (San Diego)
Logan Heights (San Diego)
Santos (Escondido)
Diablos (Escondido)
Varrrio Fallbrook Locos ("VFL")
Varrrio San Marcos ("VSM")
Old Town National City ("OTNC")
Tortilla Flats (Encinitas)
Ontario Black Angels (San Bernardino County)
Varrrio Norwalk (Los Angeles)
Pacoima (Los Angeles)
Avenues (Los Angeles)
Lynwood (Los Angeles)

The criminal complaint charges three defendants with committing a violent crime in aid of a racketeering organization. Specifically, defendants Ceasar Moedano (also charged in the RICO conspiracy indictment), Leon Rossetto and Geovani Beranal, all members of the Varrrio San Marcos street gang, are alleged to have participated in the November 30, 2005 shooting of a twelve-year-old boy on Autumn Drive in San Marcos.

The remaining four indictments charge various defendants with participating in narcotics distribution conspiracies.

United States Attorney Lam said, "The Mexican Mafia has infected our prisons and our neighborhoods. Any organization built on violence and drugs has to be dismantled, and today we begin that process."

"The Mexican Mafia is a significant threat to the public and law enforcement," according to FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel R. Dzwilewski. "Simply put, they are urban street terrorists, who rule by

violence. They are the closest thing to traditional organized crime in San Diego, and by utilizing the RICO conspiracy statute, we are able to disrupt and dismantle this criminal menace.”

U.S. Attorney Lam praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") for the coordinated team effort culminating in the charges filed in these cases. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country's battle against major drug trafficking.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

United States v. Eduardo Gonzalez-Gallegos, et. al. (Case Number 06CR1240-DMS)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

United States v. Juvenal Vega-Soto, et. al. (Case Number 06CR1241-DMS)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine

United State v. Juvenal Vega-Soto, et. al. (Case Number 06CR1242-DMS)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

United States v. Raul Leon, et. al. (Case Number 96CR1243-DMS)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d) - Conspiracy to Conduct Enterprise Affairs
Through a Pattern of Racketeering Activity

United States v. Jessie Munoz, et. al. (Case Number 06CR1244-DMS)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

United States v. Cesar Moedano, et. al. (Case Number 06MG1145)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959 - Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering

DEFENDANTS

Raul Leon

Juvenal Vega-Soto

Ricardo Martinez

Eduardo Gonzalez-Gallegos

George Feranandez

Thomas Durkin

Alex Gomez

Jessie Munoz

Salvador Perez

Richard Valenzuela

Cesar Abarca

Cesar Moedano

Javier Castrillon

Demitro Contreras

Guillermo Reyes

Jesus Antonio Armenta

Joshua Cruz

Robert Romero
Martin Reyes
Edna Davila
Mary Lou Vega
Angela Esparza
Frank Reyes
Jose Alvarez
Alex Araujo
Jose Ramirez
Amy Simpson
Rusty Perez
Richard Jaime
Maria Armenta
James Mincoff
Stephen Perry
Gerardo Cortez Medina
Donovan Oran
Leon Rossetto
Geovani Bernal

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Diego Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff's Office
North County Regional Gang Task Force
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Carlsbad Police Department
Escondido Police Department
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
U.S. Bureau of Prisons
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Oceanside Police Department
Drug Enforcement Administration - Los Angeles and Riverside
Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement - Los Angeles and Riverside
U.S. Marshals Service
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
San Diego County Probation Department
California Department of Justice

An indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

DEFENDANT	06CR1243 RICO Consp	06CR1242 Meth Consp.	06CR1241 Coc. Consp.	06CR1240 Meth Consp.	06CR1244 Meth Consp.	06MG1145 VICAR
Raul Leon	✓					
Juvenal Vega-Soto	✓	✓	✓			
Ricardo Martinez	✓					
Eduardo Gonzalez	✓			✓		
George Fernandez	✓					
Thomas Durkin	✓			✓		
Alex Gomez	✓					
Jessie Munoz	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Salvador Perez	✓					
Richard Valenzuela	✓					
Cesar Abarca	✓					
Cesar Moedano	✓					✓
Javier Castrillon	✓					
Demitro Contreras	✓					
Guillermo Reyes	✓			✓		
Jesus Armenta	✓	✓				
Joshua Cruz	✓					
Robert Romero	✓	✓				
Martin Reyes	✓	✓				
Edna Davila	✓					
Mary Lou Vega	✓	✓				
Angela Esparza	✓	✓				
Frank Reyes		✓				
Jose Alvarez		✓				
Alex Araujo		✓				
Jose Ramirez		✓				
Amy Simpson		✓				
Rusty Perez		✓				
Richard Jaime		✓				
Maria Armenta		✓				
James Mincoff			✓			
Stephen Perry			✓			
Gerardo Cortez					✓	
Donovan Oran					✓	
Leon Rossetto						✓
Giovanni Bernal						✓